

City of Aurora Receives Grant for Fire Station Architectural Fee

Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist in Area 5, USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$8,000 to the City of Aurora during a ceremony on July 19, 2004, held at the Aurora City Hall. Economic Impact Initiative Administrative Grant funds were targeted to defer the cost of the architects in relation to the design and construction documents of Aurora Fire Station Two.

Mayor Noelle Naillon stated, "The Aurora Fire Department and citizens in our community are very grateful for the grant of \$8,000 from USDA Rural Development. Our City has badly needed a functioning fire station in the north section of town. Through the cooperation of our city staff, volunteer firefighters and Rural Development, we are able to progress forward with this station".



The facility will house the equipment, apparatus, and personnel that provide structural and/or wildland fire response, rescue operations, and medical and hazardous materials response. The current substation is not repairable. The materials used in its construction and its age makes repair cost prohibitive. The City's only option is to replace the existing substation with a new building using modern construction practices and sized to fit modern fire trucks.

"Providing grants and low interest rate loans to our rural communities ensures they have access to the public safety facilities needed to keep their residents safe," said Umfleet. "It is our goal to reach as many rural communities as possible with our programs to help them create an atmosphere that fosters security, growth, and improvement in the quality of life".

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects." "The agency's mission mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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